

### Easy and Hard Things

Some hard things are easy to do and some easy things are hard to do. Very much depends on the mood we are in, the interest we have in the doing of our work and the zest with which we do it. C. F. Goss says: It is comparatively easy to do what we have to do and go where we have to go, but the supreme test of man is not so much in the discharge of obligatory as of voluntary and self appointed tasks. A man is not a half a man who does not do something with his teeth clenched and his face set hard as flint.

### Where We Meet Jesus

Is there a place anywhere on God's earth where we may not meet Jesus? Far away in the heathen land, in the depths of the northern winter, in the southland under the warm rays of the tropic sun, anywhere and everywhere, we may find Jesus. Wherever a human soul, in penitence and deep contrition and with open face humbly and pleadingly looks up to the Father there Jesus is found ready to offer pardon and peace. Ian Mac-laren (Dr. John Watson) very beautifully says:

In various places and on many occasions does Jesus pledge us to meet him in this life—at the cross, in the sacrament, in the cries of joy and sorrow, and now once again he appoints a meeting place. It is the valley of the shadow, where, in the quietness and seclusion as in a lover's glade, he will expect us one day. Is there any spot on earth so common or so wild that it has not been transformed by love? Are there any places in our thought so beautiful as those where we kept tryst with those that were dearer than life? So Jesus put a fair face on death so that it becometh but his dark dream as he returneth to receive us home.

### Old Age

There is something exquisitely beautiful in the following paragraph from Bishop Thorald, touching old age:

There is something more of an idyllic sentimentalism than of an actual and personal experience in the unclouded sunshine supposed to belong to the later autumn days. In the evening time it is light, and the clouds are lit up by the drooping sun; but before they break into glory, they are often cold, dense and gray. This allowed for, the depression that is plainly physical should be sturdily reasoned with, looked behind, and dismissed as no sort of exact indication of real usefulness. Work must change with our years, and is meant to change both in its substance, measure and quality. But mellowness of judgment is often more than an equivalent for diminished bodily vigor. Experience should not only correct mistakes, but what is much better, it should prevent them. Less work done with more completeness may serve the Church better than more done, perhaps crudely and hastily. The

Psalmist's sentence about bringing forth more fruit in old age has a happy and clear fulfilment, when the pen prolongs the message of the voice, and the brain, still fresh, tho perhaps not quite so rapid as of old, makes compensation for the flagging of the limbs. Moreover, it is true, that if our lives are spared long enough, our work must reach its limit both in gift and strength. "Man goeth forth unto his work, and his labor until the evening." When it is evening "there remaineth a rest unto the people of God." Let us take the rest, accept the dismissal, and be thankful, with a deep and wondering gratitude, that we have ever been used at all.

### The Wrong Way to Work

There is a right way to do the right thing and there is a wrong way to do the right thing, tho there certainly can not be a right way to do the wrong thing.

Suppose some cold morning you should go into a neighbor's house and find him busy at work on his windows, scratching away, and should ask him what he was doing, and he should reply:

"Why, I am trying to remove the frost; but as fast as I get it off one square it comes on another."

Would you not say, "Why man let your windows alone and kindle a fire, and the frost will come off?"

And have you not seen people try to break off their bad habits one after another without avail? Well they are like the man who tried to scratch the frost from the windows.

Let the fire of love to God, kindled at the altar of prayer, burn in your heart, and the bad habits will soon melt away.

### The Ways of Love

In Captain Bluit, a novel by Charles Heber Clark ("Max Alder") is the following bit of philosophy about love and lovers;

He led them thru the way of the wilderness. Often it is a hard and bitter journey, with much wandering and stumbling and hunger and thirst; but the Power that prepared the highways of Life seems to have arranged that the finger posts along the primrose paths shall rarely point to the Promised Land.

If love at its very best be indeed Love Triumphant, then there must be difficulty as the preliminary of conquest; there must be pang if felicity is to have the acuteness of ecstasy. If Sorrow's crown of Sorrow be remembering happier things, must it not be the very crown of Joy, as one stands upon the mountain top in the serene atmosphere of victory, is remembrance of the travail of the dreary journey across the desert?

The flowery bed of ease is never lifted heavenward; everything worth having costs, and the price paid for the highest things usually has in it some flower of anguish. There is a strange kind of sweetness even in sorrow; and that human nature has some subtle craving for it, though we shrink from pain, is

proved by the familiar fact that lovers, who find Fate disposed to make their pathway smooth and to cover it with radiance, will have a pretext for a quarrel now and then so that there may be periods of gloom which will make the sunshine seem more glorious when it comes again.

## Missions

### INCENTIVES TO MISSION WORK

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If the many incentives held out in the word of God for the liberal support of mission work were seriously considered by the membership of the church it would not be necessary to write urgent appeals for money to support the small effort we as a church are making at the present time. It may not be unprofitable to look at a few of the reasons why we should want to give of our means to extend the kingdom of God on earth.

One is the fear of judgment. "For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ; that every one may receive the things done in his body, according to that he hath done, whether it be good or bad." II Cor. 5:10. This is a very general statement not applicable to the support or neglect of mission work specifically, but it includes that. It resolves itself to this: Is it good or bad to refuse to do what the Master has commanded us to do? Is it good or bad to be unconcerned about the salvation of those outside of our own family or community or county or city or country? Jesus says, "If ye love me keep my commandments." His commandment is to go into all the world and preach my gospel to every creature. It is said of the Lord that he loveth a cheerful giver. He just as naturally hates a stingy soul.

It is a serious thing to be unconcerned about our fellow beings, no matter whether it be as to their physical or spiritual well-being. Jesus says, "Inasmuch as ye did it not to one of the least of these, ye did it not to me. And these shall go away unto everlasting punishment: but the righteous into life eternal." Matt. 25:45, 46

There is a cry these days of only believe! only believe! and thou shalt be saved, but the question arises what to believe. Simply that Jesus *was* and *is* or believe what he says, "Whosoever heareth these sayings of mine and doeth them I will liken him unto a wise man, which built his house upon a rock," etc., Matt. 7:24

There is a "nampy pampy" theology abroad that God's mercy is so great that he will overlook the shortcomings of willful, stingy, lazy, selfish professors, but let us remember the words of the Master in the temptation in the wilderness, he said it is *written*. No matter Satan, what I *can* do, or what my Father can do, it is *written* what he *will* do. Just so in these days, it is not what men may think that the mercy of God